



**Board Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2026 – 6:00 pm
Community Center
600 N. Main Street, Wauconda, IL**

1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Commissioners –Berrelez, Carr, Bianco, Tallman, and Starkey
Commissioner Berrelez, Carr, Bianco, Tallman and Starkey were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. The following members of the public were present: JoAnn Freeman, Island Lake Resident.

3. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2026 – Regular Session Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular Session Minute from February 10, 2026, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll call: All aye

4. Comments from the Public – Those wishing to comment during the public comment section of the Board Meeting may do so, provided they follow the District’s Public Comment Policy located on the District’s website at <https://www.waucondaparks.com/general/policies/>. Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker.

None

5. Communications

Director Staton provided the Board with a Certificate of Appreciation from SWALCO for our participation in the Reuse-a-Shoe Program during the past year.

6. Approval of Disbursements – February 11, 2026 – February 24, 2026= \$53,715.39

A motion to approve the disbursements from February 11, 2026-February 24, 2026, in the amount of \$53,715.39 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: Director Staton reviewed the report with the Board.

7. Committee Reports

A.) Recreation

Director Babicz gave a brief report on Preschool Open House, the District hosting Women in Business on March 11 and staff is planning upcoming Easter events.

B.) Finance

Director Staton reviewed his written Finance Report and L&A’s written report. Overall, the net for this fiscal year is lower, expenses are higher due to capital expenditures. Staff are hopeful that Silver Sneakers will improve the Fitness First budget, Recreation is up in revenue, monies will be transferred appropriately for Capital Projects from fund balances in April.

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey asked what the budget timeline is for the year. Director Staton responded that at the next meeting the first draft is due. Commissioner Bianco asked if staff have raised fees in the last few years for the day camp program. Director Staton responded that staff raise fees as needed to cover costs and this is normally done during the budget preparation cycle.

C.) Park Maintenance

Director Staton gave a brief report that maintenance staff are working on pier building for the Beach Park Marina, performing general maintenance of the parks, cleaning up after the snow melt, and gearing up for spring.

D.) W-Fest

Director Staton gave a brief report that bands are booked, Director Staton and Director Drinkwine are meeting tomorrow about equipment rentals, and the next meeting is set for March 11.

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey said he saw Fest advertised online and Director Staton mentioned that Coordinator Freeman has completed a workup on Fest button design that was sent to the committee for suggestions/approval.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

Comprehensive Plan report takes place at the first meeting of the month

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey asked how the budget is being worked up to complete capital projects that are reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. Director Staton said he will have more on this at the next meeting. He will also have a better idea after the bid opening on Thursday for the Marina project of the overall cost of the Marina project. Commissioner Tallman said he has seen some movement at the Marina already, which led Director Staton to give a brief update on the project. Commissioner Starkey asked Director Staton to provide an update of the Comprehensive Plan Document for the next meeting, along with preliminary budget figures.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report. Highlights included upcoming vacation days, IAPD/IPRA Legislative Breakfast, Bangs Lake Outflow Project, Bangs Lake Marina project and the next Triathlon Meeting.

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey inquired when the Bangs Lake Outflow Project is set to be complete. Director Staton read an email from Public Works that had an April deadline. Discussion was held on how to speed up the process or make it look more presentable before spring arrives. Director Staton was asked to reach out to the village and let them know that the Board is asking what can be done to get the project completed sooner or improve the look of the area. There was discussion on what the plan is for the slide at Phil's Beach. Commissioner Starkey mentioned the idea of the foundation possibly raising funds to put a playground in that area. Commissioner Starkey asked for an update on the Bangs Lake Marina FAQ information to provide a general timeline for the project. Director Staton will review this with Featherstone. Commissioner Starkey expressed his appreciation for the staff and a job well done at the Business Expo that occurred this past weekend. He enjoyed his interaction with the residents and said most questions and reactions were positive about the Bangs Lake Marina project.

8. New Business

None

9. Unfinished Business

None

10. Commissioner's Comment

None

11. Executive Session – If needed for the

1. Litigation – Pending or Imminent 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)
2. Personnel – Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)
3. Real Estate – Purchase or Lease (Buy) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
Setting Price for Sale/Lease 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6)

Not Needed

12. Issues to be voted on by the Board that were discussed in executive session

None

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Voice vote: All aye

The Wauconda Park District is subject to the requirements of the American's With Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Tim Staton at (847) 526-3610 promptly to allow the Wauconda Park District to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.